



FEMA

National Situation Report

As of 5:30 a.m. Saturday, August 27, 2005

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

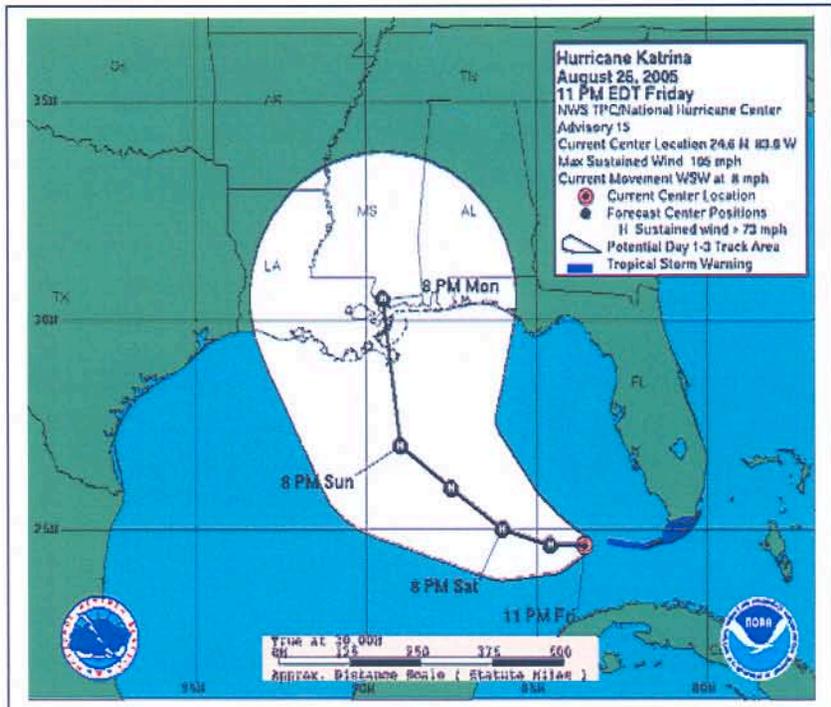
ELEVATED

Katrina Becomes a Category Three Hurricane, Aims Towards Northern Gulf Coast

At 5 a.m. EDT, the eye of Hurricane Katrina was located by radar near latitude 24.4 north and longitude 84.4 west, about 435 miles southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River and about 165 miles west of Key West, Florida.

Katrina is moving toward the west-northwest near 7mph and a gradual turn to the west and west-northwest is expected during the next 24 hours.

Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 115 mph with higher gusts. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 40 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 150 miles. Estimated minimum central pressure is 963 mb or 28.44 inches.



Katrina is now a Category Three hurricane and some strengthening is forecast during the next 24 hours. Reconnaissance aircraft data indicates that the Katrina has also become a larger hurricane.

Storm surge flooding of 2 to 4 feet above normal levels can be expected along the southeast coast of Florida in areas of onshore flow east of Cape Sable and in Florida Bay. Storm surge will gradually subside today.

Rainfall from Katrina is expected to slowly diminish across the lower Florida Keys though an additional 1 to 2 inches of rain is possible in some of the heavier rain bands. Isolated tornadoes are also possible this morning over the Florida Keys. *(National Hurricane Center, media sources)*

State of Emergency Declared in Mississippi, Louisiana Due To Hurricane Katrina

In anticipation of a possible landfall, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour and Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco declared States of Emergency Friday. In Louisiana, New Orleans is of particular concern because much of that city lies below sea level.



According to Gov. Blanco, Lake Pontchartrain is a very large lake that sits next to the city of New Orleans and if the hurricane winds blow from a certain direction, there are dire predictions of what may happen in the city.

Robert Latham, director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, said evacuations of tourists along the coast could begin late Saturday afternoon, followed by mandatory evacuations of coastal residents on Sunday. The National Guard had been activated to help with storm preparations, he said.

The last time Mississippi or Louisiana saw landfall from a storm classified as Category 4 or stronger was in August 1969, when Hurricane Camille roared ashore with winds in excess of 155 mph, killing 143 people.

In the Gulf of Mexico, six oil companies operating offshore facilities evacuated at least 150 people as a precaution. However, most of those employees were described as "non-essential" to production, and rigs and platforms continued to operate.

At least 12 platforms and nine oil rigs in the Gulf have been evacuated -- a small portion of the 953 manned rigs and platforms operating there, according to the Interior Department's Mineral Management Service.

Friday afternoon, the Air Force began evacuating aircraft from at least two bases in the Florida Panhandle to minimize any possible damage. *(Various media sources)*

State and Federal Preparedness for Hurricane Katrina

FEMA Headquarters:

The FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) remains at modified Level II operations with Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) 1 (with an Air Operations Element), 3, 4, 5, 7, 15, and a Military Liaison.

On Saturday, the NRCC will transition to a 24-hour Level I on Saturday, August 27 at 07:00 a.m. EDT. ESFs 2, 6, 8, 9, 10-15 and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) are being activated.

FEMA Headquarters is conducting daily video-teleconferences with FEMA Region IV, the National Hurricane Center, Florida, and other potentially affected States.

FEMA Region IV:

The Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) remains at Level II operations. In addition to ESFs 1, 3, 4, 7, 14, 15 and the Department of Defense (DOD), ESF 6 has been activated. ESFs 2, 8, 9, 11, 12 and Rapid Needs Assessment are being activated.

RRCC Level I will be established on Saturday, August 27 at 12 p.m. EDT. Beginning Sunday, August 28 the RRCC will go to 24-hour operations.

An Emergency Response Team-Advance Element (ERT-A) from Region IX has been activated and will arrive to pre-stage in the RRCC on Saturday.

A request for a disaster declaration has been received from the Governor of Florida and acknowledged. Preliminary disaster assessments (PDAs) are being scheduled.

Alabama: Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will move to Level 1 (full activation) on Saturday. A FEMA Liaison and a full ERT-A has been requested and is scheduled to arrive on Saturday.

Florida: Florida's EOC is at Level 1 (full activation). An ERT-A from the Long Term Recovery Center in Orlando has been sent to the EOC in Tallahassee.

Mississippi: EOC is at Level 1 (normal) Operation.

Georgia: EOC continues operating at Level I (monitoring).

South Carolina: EOC currently operating at Level 5 (normal). (*FEMA Region IV*)

National Weather Forecast

South: Scattered thunderstorms will move down through the Tennessee Valley on Saturday ahead of a cold front. Isolated, strong thunderstorms may show up around the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. It will be hot in areas from Texas to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle..

Midwest: A cold front will trigger showers and thunderstorms through the Midwest from the eastern Great Lakes to the middle Mississippi Valley on Saturday. A few thunderstorms could turn severe from the Ohio Valley to the eastern Great Lakes. The Plains will be dry, allowing flood waters across Kansas and Missouri to recede and river levels to lower. High temperatures will range from the 70s from the eastern Great Lakes back to Minnesota with 80s in most other locations.

Northeast: In central to northern New England it will be warm to hot with plenty of sunshine raising the high temperatures 5 to 10 degrees above average. Although the majority of the region will be dry, showers and some thunderstorms will track eastward into western Virginia, West Virginia, western Pennsylvania, and southwestern New York, especially during the afternoon hours.

West: Except for southern Colorado and parts of New Mexico, the West will be dry on Saturday. Temperatures will be very hot in the Southwest with a possible high of 110 degrees around Phoenix. Highs may also reach 100 degrees over parts the Sacramento Valley while the LA Basin will hover in the low 90s. A cold front will bring much cooler temperatures and showers to parts of the Pacific Northwest late in the weekend into Monday. (*Various media sources*)

Wildfire Activity

The Manton Fire, located in the city of Tehama of Shasta County in northern California, is a foothills blaze that had charred more than 2,000 acres and a fire information officer with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said the blaze had destroyed 10 to 20 structures, including some outbuildings, by early evening. Two hundred people, of a population of 400 plus, were ordered to evacuate. Evacuation centers opened at Black Butte School in Shingletown and at the Tehama County Fair grounds in Red Bluff. No injuries have been reported. More than 270 firefighters were battling the fire, which was burning toward Viola, about 45 miles northeast of Red Bluff. The cause of the blaze was under investigation and there was no estimate of when it would be contained. On Friday August 26, 2005, a FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant was approved for the Manton Fire. (*FEMA Region IX, various media sources*)

Other Tropical Cyclone Activity

In the Eastern/Central Pacific, Tropical Storm 09E (Irwin) is 252 miles southeast of Socorro Island, Mexico moving westward in the Pacific Ocean and does not threaten land or any U.S. interests. In the Western Pacific, Tropical Depression 13W is approximately 115 miles west-northwest of Guam and is tracking westward but it does not pose any threats to U.S. interests. (*National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center*)

Earthquake Activity

A magnitude 4.7 earthquake occurred in the Mariana Islands Region on Friday, August 26, 2005 at 8:15 a.m. EDT. The epicenter was located at a depth of 183.1 miles, approximately 135 miles west-northwest of Farallon de Pajaros, Northern Mariana Islands. There were no reports of damages or injuries.

A magnitude 4.4 earthquake occurred in the Rat Islands, Aleutian Islands in Alaska on Friday, August 26, 2005 at 12:09 p.m. EDT. The epicenter was located at a depth of 24.9 miles, approximately 50 miles south-southeast of Buldir Island, Alaska. There were no reports of damages or injuries. (*USGS National Earthquake Information Center*)

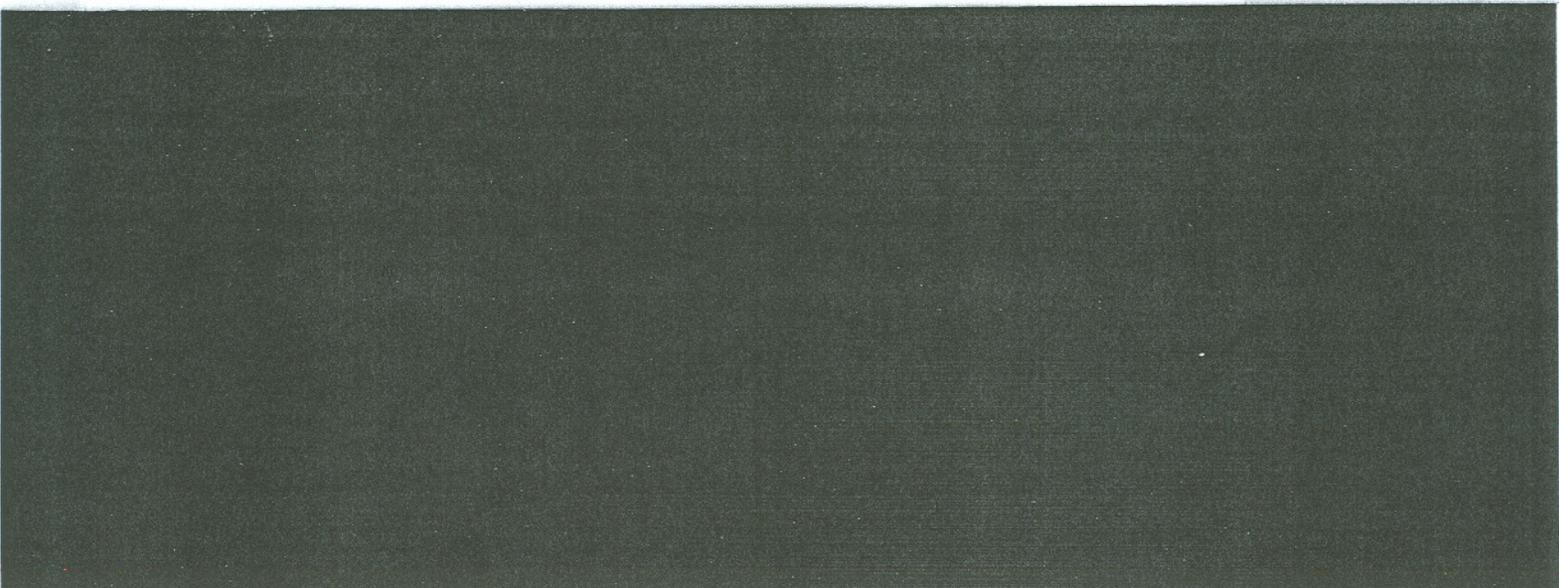
Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)

No new activity reported. (*FEMA HQ*)

Disaster Declaration Activity

No new activity reported. (*FEMA HQ*)

FEMA Readiness Alert Status:

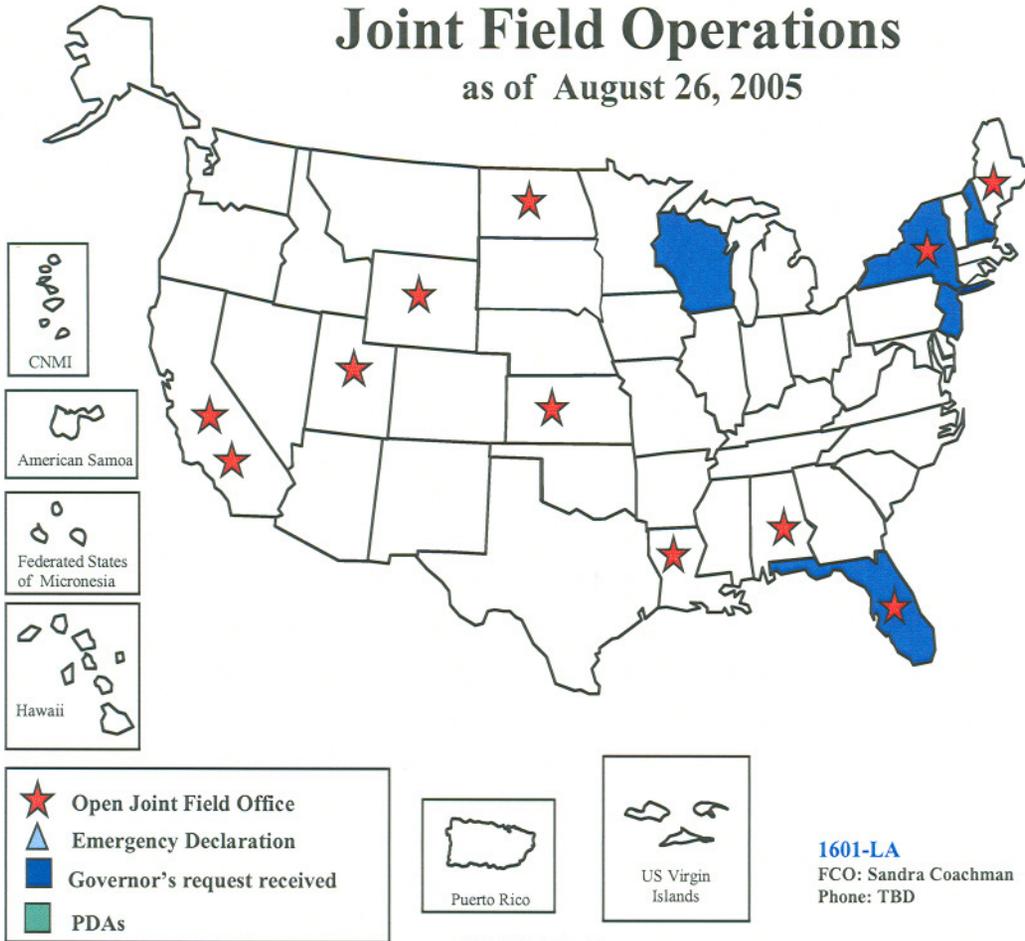


Disaster Teleregistration Activity Chart

DR	Incident Type	08/25/05	Cumulative
1599-WY	Tornado	31	102
1595-FL	Hurricane Dennis	133	38,704
1593-AL	Hurricane Dennis	33	13,614
Total		197	54,420

Joint Field Operations

as of August 26, 2005



1585/1577-CA
 FCO: David Fukutomi
 Phone: 626-431-3000

1589-NY
 FCO: Marianne C. Jackson
 Phone: 518-457-0530
 Closing September 15, 2005

1591-ME
 FCO: James N. Russo
 Phone: 207-771-2100
 Closing September 16, 2005

1593-AL
 FCO: Michael Bolch
 Phone: 334-270-7700

1595-FL
 FCO: Justin DeMello
 Phone: 407-858-2000

1597-ND
 FCO: Anthony Russell
 Phone: 701-250-4140

1598-UT
 FCO: Carlos Mitchell
 Phone: 801-578-4000

1599-WY
 FCO: Michael Karl
 Phone: TBD

1601-LA
 FCO: Sandra Coachman
 Phone: TBD

1600-KS
 FCO: Thomas J. Costello
 Phone: TBD

FEMA NRCC Graphic

The FEMA Homeland Security Daily Operations Report is prepared by the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). Questions can be addressed to NRCC watch officers via phone at 202-646-2828/4541 (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), via fax at 202-646-4617, or via e-mail at FEMA-NRCC@dhs.gov.